



Avian Antics!

Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area



Welcome to Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area! Your goal with the Avian Antics Quest is to spot and accurately identify as many bird species in different habitats as possible. This quest is a self-guided hike that is open daily. So, please explore at your own pace. The park is open 7:00 am to sunset and there are two starting locations from which to choose.

Our Park Quest trail loop is approximately three miles. Whether you begin at the Covered Bridge Parking Lot (Intersection of Black Bridge Road and Tawes Drive, Elkton, MD) or the North Appleton Parking Lot (2941 Appleton Road, Elkton, MD), you will see each of the habitats we highlighted for this quest. No equipment is provided or needed. However, we do suggest bringing binoculars if you have them.

The Avian Antics quest gives you the chance to spend time with our feathered friends at the Fair Hill NRMA and the variety of habitats they call home. You will get an opportunity to spend time in a forest, field, and wetland habitat while discovering the different behaviors of birds in these distinct ecosystems.

First Things First:

Make sure you are starting from the Covered Bridge Lot or North Appleton Lot. Once there, you will find our Park Quest boxes at the bulletin board. One box contains instructions and bird guides. The other box is for you to unlock when you complete your hike using the clues found along the way.

You will see the Park Quest logo on trail posts along your hike route. If starting at the Covered Bridge Lot, we suggest walking through the Covered Bridge and continuing straight onto Old Union School Road. If starting at the North Appleton Lot, we suggest walking North on the green trail (the first right on the gravel trail behind bulletin board of North Appleton Parking Lot, perpendicular to Black Bridge Road).

The Quest:

We have provided you with a map of the quest route and the location of each habitat “spot” to help you along your way. You will know you are at a habitat spot when you see our Park Quest signs that include images of birds you may see in each habitat.

The Park Quest sign includes some common bird species listed to aid you in identifying species for each specific habitat. You will find

a letter on the sign that you will need to record in order to unlock the stamp at the end of the quest.

Forest: _____

Field: _____

Wetland: _____

Bird Identification Tools:

We have also provided you with a booklet listing the bird species found in Fair Hill NRMA to include the time of year you will most likely see them at our park. We invite you to return throughout the year! We have also provided a checklist from the Maryland Ornithological Society Field of bird species found in Maryland so you may continue the fun outside of Fair Hill NRMA.

As you reach each habitat site, we ask that you stop and use your senses to listen and watch for birds. You may spend as much time as you want in each of these areas. Try to correctly identify as many birds as you can and check them off of your list. Feel free to use your phone to help you with identification.

Helpful Bird Identification Phone Applications:

Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab

Birder-Log birds you see by Birding & Birdwatching

If you see a bird as you are hiking to each site, you are more than welcome to include that on your list. This could be a start to a life bird list! Once you have collected all three letters, you will need to go to your starting point (either Covered Bridge lot or North Appleton Lot) to unlock the box and receive your passport stamp.

Completing Your Quest:

How to unlock the box: after retrieving all three letters from the three habitat spots, you will need to put them in order according to the instructions on the Park Quest box. Once in order, you will be able to unlock the box and stamp your passport! When finished, please make sure that you relock the box.



Embrace the Avian Antics! You can share photos of your quest on social media by tweeting us: @fairhillsp #ParkQuest

We hope you enjoy the quest!

Please feel free to call with any questions.



Fair Hill NRMA

Office (Monday-Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm):
410-398-1246

Duty Ranger (Daily 7:00am - Sunset):
410-218-1698